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Re: Application No. 09/595,288 Attorney Docket No: RSW9-2000-0041-US1	
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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Fiedorowicz et al.

Serial No.: 09/595,288

Filed: June 15, 2000

For: Apparatus and Method for  
Enabling Composite Style Sheet  
Application to Multi-Part Electronic  
Documents

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CUSTOMER NUMBER§  
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Group Art Unit: 2178

Examiner: Huynh, Cong Lac T.

Attorney Docket No.: RSW9-2000-0041-US1

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- Appeal Brief (37 C.F.R. 41.37).

A fee of \$500.00 is required for filing an Appeal Brief. Please charge this fee to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461. No additional fees are believed to be necessary. If, however, any additional fees are required, I authorize the Commissioner to charge these fees which may be required to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and I authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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PATENT

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Group Art Unit: 2178

Examiner: Huynh, Cong Lac T.

Commissioner for Patents  
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on May 10/2005.

By:

Jennifer Pilcher  
Jennifer Pilcher

APPEAL BRIEF (37 C.F.R. 41.37)

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on March 18, 2005.

The fees required under § 41.20(B)(2), and any required petition for extension of time for filing this  
brief and fees therefore, are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

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**REAL PARTY IN INTEREST**

The real party in interest in this appeal is the following party: International Business Machines Corporation.

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**RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

With respect to other appeals or interferences that will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal, there are no such appeals or interferences.

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**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

**A. TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN APPLICATION**

Claims in the application are: 1-45

**B. STATUS OF ALL THE CLAIMS IN APPLICATION**

1. Claims canceled: none
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: none
3. Claims pending: 1-45
4. Claims allowed: none
5. Claims rejected: 1-45
6. Claims objected to: none

**C. CLAIMS ON APPEAL**

The claims on appeal are: 1-45

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**STATUS OF AMENDMENTS**

A request for reconsideration was filed by Appellants on February 3, 2005, and was deemed unpersuasive by the Examiner, as noted in an Advisory Action dated February 28, 2005.

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### **SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER**

Generally speaking, the present invention is directed to a technique for transforming or formatting documents for presentation, such as by printing or displaying the document. Formatting documents for presentation presents a particular set of challenges, in that different types of devices used for presenting or displaying a document can have different characteristics that are incompatible with one another, such that the document being formatted may have to be customized for a given device. Style sheets describe how a document is transformed or formatted, but defining unique style sheets for every type of device and for each type of document to be transformed/formatted quickly snowballs into a humongous effort of creating, updating, and otherwise generally managing such a large mix of device-specific style sheets. The present invention advantageously provides a style sheet customization technique through use of style sheets subsets that define how particular portions of a document are to be transformed, and a way to generate a customized composite style sheet, from such style sheet subsets, for use in presenting the document for a particular type of output device. In order to accomplish this objective, the present invention is directed to a technique for generating a composite style sheet that may be applied to an electronic document for proper presentation on a requesting device. Content of a requested document is identified to determine subset style sheets that correspond to the identified content. Certain ones of the subset style sheets are selected based upon characteristics of the requesting device for use in generating the composite style sheet.

#### **A. CLAIM 1 - INDEPENDENT**

Claim 1 is directed to a method of generating a composite style sheet used for transforming an electronic document. A plurality of subset style sheets are identified based on content of the electronic document. The plurality of subset style sheets are merged to generate the composite style sheet (Specification page 15, lines 1-9, page 16, lines 12-19, page 21, line 6 – page 23, line 5; Figure 3, elements 310, 320, 330 and 340). This generated composite style sheet is used for transforming an electronic document, and thus Claim 1 is directed to a pre-processing operation

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prior to the actual electronic document transformation using a style sheet, and includes specific steps for *generating a composite style sheet* that can then be used during a subsequent document transformation. The cited reference merely teaches such routine document transformation using a pre-existing style sheet (see Example 2 on page 3 of the cited Walsh reference for evidence that this style sheet is preexisting), without any type of style sheet pre-processing prior to such transformation, such as the claimed composite style sheet generation.

**B. CLAIM 9 - INDEPENDENT**

Claim 9 is directed to a method of generating a composite style sheet for an electronic document. A determination is made as to if a composite style sheet for the electronic document is present in a composite style sheet repository and, if not, a plurality of subset style sheets are identified based on content of the electronic document, and these plurality of subset style sheets are merged to generate the composite style sheet (Specification page 15, lines 1-9, page 16, lines 12-19, page 21, line 6 – page 23, line 5; Figure 3, elements 310, 320, 330 and 340).

**C. CLAIM 16 – INDEPENDENT**

Claim 16 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method Claim 1, and the summary of Claim 1 is applicable for Claim 16, and thus is hereby incorporated by reference.

**D. CLAIM 31 - INDEPENDENT**

Claim 31 is a program product claim corresponding to method Claim 1, and the summary of Claim 1 is applicable for Claim 31, and thus is hereby incorporated by reference.

**GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL**

**A. GROUND OF REJECTION 1 (Claims 1-8, 14-24, 29-38 and 44-45)**

Claims 1-8, 14-24, 29-38 and 44-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Walsh, *The Extensible Style Language: {XSL} Styling XML Documents*, Web Techniques, Jan 1999, vol. 4, iss. 1, pg. 49, 5 pgs, printed from ProQuest as pages 1-10.

**B. GROUND OF REJECTION 2 (Claims 9, 31 and 39)**

Claims 9, 31 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Walsh, *The Extensible Style Language: {XSL} Styling XML Documents*, Web Techniques, Jan 1999, vol. 4, iss. 1, pg. 49, 5 pgs, printed from ProQuest as pages 1-10 in view of Boag et al. (US Pat No. 6,589,291 B1).

**C. GROUND OF REJECTION 3 (Claims 10, 25 and 40)**

Claims 10, 25 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Walsh as applied to Claim 2 above, and further in view of Feibus, *Visual InterDev Improves*, InformationWeek, September 28, 1998, Iss. 702, pg. 18A, 2 pgs, printed from ProQuest as pages 1-3.

**D. GROUND OF REJECTION 4 (Claims 11-13, 26-28 and 41-43)**

Claims 11-13, 26-28 and 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Walsh as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Boag et al. (US Pat No. 6,589,291 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 1.

### ARGUMENT

#### A. GROUND OF REJECTION 1 (Claims 1-8, 14-24, 29-38 and 44-45)

##### A.1. Claims 1, 8, 16, 23, 31 and 38

In general, and as will be shown in further detail below, the cited reference does not teach the claimed step of merging a plurality of subset style sheets to generate a composite style sheet that is used for transforming an electronic document. Rather, the cited reference describes a traditional XML document parsing technique using a tree structure.

Specifically, Claim 1 recites:

A method of generating a composite style sheet used for transforming an electronic document, comprising:

identifying a plurality of subset style sheets based on content of the electronic document; and

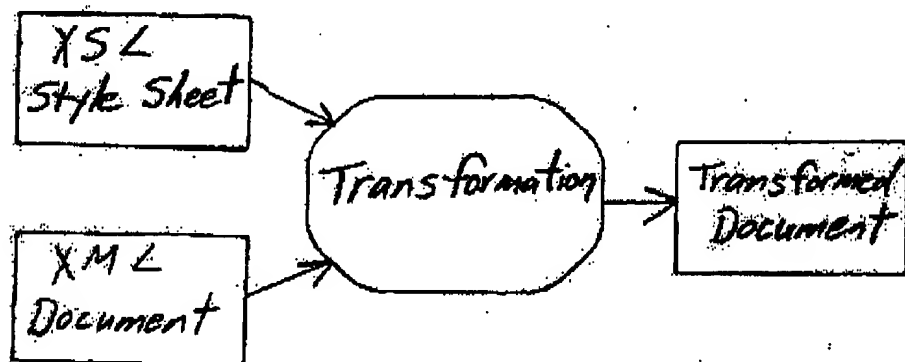
merging the plurality of subset style sheets to generate the composite style sheet.

As can be seen, Claim 1 is directed to a method for generating a composite style sheet. The composite style sheet that is generated is *used for transforming an electronic document*. As a part of this generation of a composite style sheet - which is used for a traditional transforming of an electronic document such as is described by the cited Walsh reference - two steps are listed. First, a plurality of subset style sheets are identified *based on content of an electronic document that is to be transformed*. Next, these identified style sheets are merged to generate a composite style sheet. This composite style is then used to transform *this same electronic document*. This use of a style sheet to transform a document is similar to the teachings of the cited Walsh reference. However, and importantly, *how* this composite style is generated is not described by Walsh, which merely assumes its pre-existence. Thus, the cited Walsh reference cannot teach the specifically recited steps of Claim 1 that are used to generate the composite style sheet, as Walsh

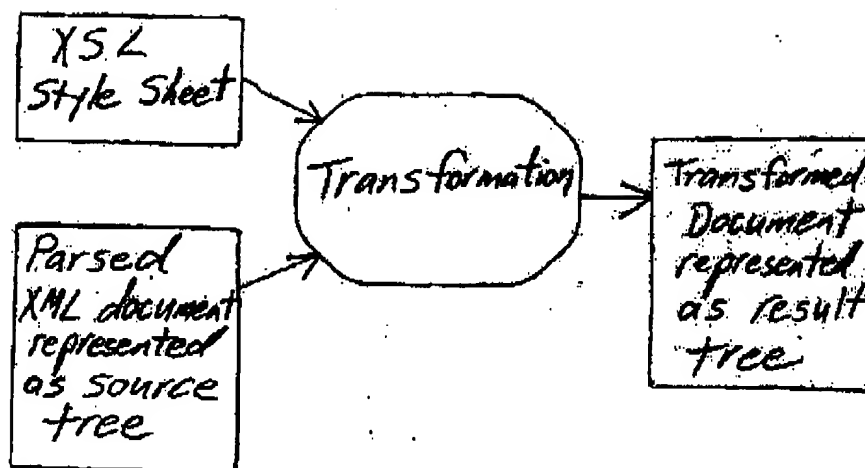
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merely describes a *use of a pre-existing style sheet* without describing *how* such style sheet was generated. This will now be further described with reference to a few diagrams that will definitively establish that Walsh merely describes *use* of a pre-existing style sheet, but does not in any way described any method for *generating* such a style sheet, as per Claim 1.

As described by Walsh, and as described in the background section of the present application, style sheets are used to describe transformations from one document type to another (Walsh, page 2; see also the present patent specification, page 2, lines 2-14). One type of such a style sheet is an XSL style sheet specified in an extensible stylesheet language (XSL). An XSL style sheet specifies how an XML document is to be transformed for presentation, resulting in a different document (present patent specification page 2, lines 15-19). This process is graphically depicted below:



Coincidentally, this is the identical type of system described by the cited Walsh reference, although Walsh goes one step deeper into this description, and states that the XML document has been parsed, and thus is represented as a "source tree", and that the resulting transformed document is in the form of a "result tree". Thus, using Walsh terminology, the Walsh description is depicted as follows:

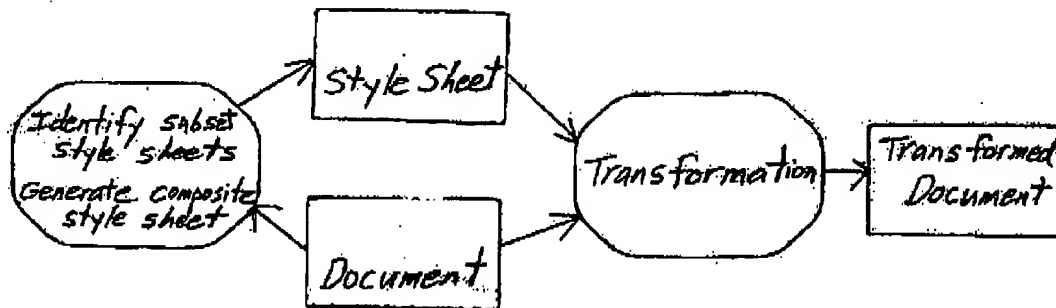


Walsh Description  
of XSL Working  
Group first Working  
Draft

Yet, even with this additional detail, the overall process flow of Walsh is merely describing a traditional use of an XSL Style Sheet. Walsh confirms this, in stating that his document is a summary of the first Working Draft of the XSL Working Group (Walsh page 1, paragraph 5) – i.e. a standard/traditional XSL style sheet. Importantly, the generated result tree as described by Walsh is not then used to transform a document, as it is the document – albeit in transformed result tree format.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to a specific technique for generating the style sheet itself (which is then used in transforming a document such as by using the above described technique). As a part of this style sheet generation methodology, the document to be transformed is used to identify a plurality of subset style sheets. Then, these plurality of subset style sheets are merged to generate a composite style that is used for transforming the electronic

document. The claimed process, when used in an environment such as described by Walsh, is depicted as follows:



As can be seen by this depiction, and as expressly recited in Claim 1, the document that is to be transformed using a style sheet is first *used to identify subset style sheets*. These subset style sheets are then merged to generate the composite style sheet that is used for transforming this same document. In effect, Claim 1 is a front-end process directed to a specific technique for generating a style sheet, which may then be subsequently used in a traditional document transformation system such as described by Walsh. In contrast, Walsh's knitting together of fragments is the actual generation of the transformed document itself (the complete result tree, page 7, Example 3), and thus cannot reasonably be construed as generating a composite style sheet that is used to transform a document. As every element of the claimed invention is not identically shown in a single reference, and in particular the identification and merging of subset style sheets – based on the content of a document – to generate a composite style sheet that is used to transform this same document, it is shown that Claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference.

#### A.2. Claims 2, 5, 15, 17, 20, 30, 32, 35 and 45

Appellants initially show error in the rejection of Claims 2, 5, 15, 17, 20, 30, 32, 35 and 45 for reasons given above with respect to Claim 1. Further, Appellants urge that the cited reference does not teach the claimed feature of “wherein the plurality of subset style sheets

includes a global style sheet and other subset style sheets, and wherein merging the plurality of subset style sheets includes inserting the other subset style sheets into the global style sheet to generate the composite style sheet". In rejecting Claim 2, the Examiner cites a passage in Walsh that describes an XSL processor beginning at a root node of a source tree and processes it. Appellants respectfully urge that this XSL processing is a part of the actual transformation of the XML document, and is not any part of generating a style sheet (which is then used to transform a document). Thus, the cited passage does not teach a further refinement of the subset style sheets that are recited in Claim 1, and in particular does not teach that these subset style sheets (which are merged to generate a composite style sheet that is used to transform a document) includes a global sheet to which the other subset style sheets are inserted into to generate the composite style sheet. The passage relied upon in rejecting this claim (knitting elements together to form a document) teaches transformation *of the document itself* into a result tree, and does not teach generation of a composite style sheet (which is a different claimed element than the claimed electronic document). Thus, as every element of the claimed invention recited in Claim 2 is not identically shown in a single reference, it is further shown that Claim 2 has been erroneously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

#### A.3. Claims 3, 18 and 33

Appellants initially show error in the rejection of Claims 3, 18 and 33 for reasons given above with respect to Claim 2. Further, Appellants urge that the cited reference does not teach the claimed feature of "converting a root template in each of the other subset style sheets to a child template". In rejecting Claim 3, the Examiner alleges that Walsh teaches this claimed step when processing `xsl:process-children` which are substantiated when encountered. Appellants urge that the processing of children does not teach any type of conversion of a root template to a child template, as expressly recited in Claim 3. The fact that such children may have inherited information from an ancestor does not establish, either expressly or under principles of inherency, that a root template for each of the subset style sheets (as identified from the

document to be transformed) is *converted to a child template*, as expressly recited in Claim 3. Thus, Claim 3 is further shown to have been erroneously rejected.

**A.4. Claims 4, 19 and 34**

Appellants initially show error in the rejection of Claims 4, 19 and 34 for reasons given above with respect to Claim 3. Further, Appellants urge that the passage cited by the Examiner as teaching pattern matching is with respect to the actual document transformation using a style sheet. In contrast, the phrase matching as per Claim 4 is with respect to steps performed in the *generation of the style sheet itself*. Thus, it is urged that Claim 4 has been erroneously rejected.

**A.5. Claims 6, 7, 21, 22, 36 and 37**

Appellants initially show error in the rejection of Claims 6, 7, 21, 22, 36 and 37 for reasons given above with respect to Claim 1. Further, in rejecting Claim 6 the Examiner correctly states that Walsh describes parsing an XML source document into a source tree representation. However, that is where the similarities end. The scenario described on page 3 of Walsh describes the internal structure of a pre-existing XSL style sheet (Example 2), such preexisting style sheet being an XML document itself and having style sheet elements contained therein. It is certainly not possible to parse this preexisting XSL style sheet and then traverse the resulting tree in order to identify style sheet subsets that are then used to *generate the style sheet*, as the style sheet *already exists*. Such interpretation results in an interesting catch 22 situation – the style sheet to be generated is itself traversed to examine elements in order to identify subset style sheets that are then used to generate the style sheet that is itself being examined. This further evidences that Walsh does not teach any pre-processing to generate a style sheet that is used to transform a document, but rather teaches traditional transformation of a document using a pre-existing style sheet. Thus, Claim 6 is shown to have been erroneously rejected, as every element of the claimed invention is not identically shown in a single reference.



**A.6. Claims 14, 29 and 44**

Appellants initially show error in the rejection of Claims 14, 29 and 44 for reasons given above with respect to Claim 1. Further, Appellants urge that the cited reference does not teach the claimed feature of “wherein identifying a plurality of subset style sheets further includes identifying the plurality of subset style sheets based on characteristics of a client device to which the electronic document is to be sent”. In rejecting Claim 14, the Examiner states that Walsh teaches “SXL formatting objects ... Using these formatting objects, it will be possible to write style sheets that can be rendered on many different devices”, which implies the claimed feature recited in Claim 14. Appellants show two-fold error in this rejection of Claim 14. First, a statement of some future capability that may be provided by a currently non-existent formatting object is non-enabling. It is merely a statement of a possible future functionality. Second, this passage is with respect to manual step of *writing style sheets* by a person. Claim 14 is specifically directed to *identification of style sheets* based on the characteristics of a device. The fact that a style sheet can be written to support a plurality of devices does not teach, either expressly or under principles of inherency, that subset style sheets are identified based on device characteristics as a part of generating a composite style sheet. Thus, Claim 14 is further shown to have been erroneously rejected as all claimed features are not taught in a single reference.

**A.7. Claim 24**

With respect to Claim 24, Appellants initially show error in such rejection for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 16.

Further regarding Claim 24, Appellants urge that none of the cited references teach or suggest the claimed feature of “wherein the transcoder determines if a composite style sheet for the electronic document is present in the composite style sheet repository and, if a composite style sheet for the electronic document is present in the composite style sheet repository, the transcoder makes use of the composite style sheet in the composite style sheet repository”.

While the Examiner fails to identify or articulate what portion of the cited reference is alleged to read on this claimed feature, in rejecting Claim 8 the Examiner states that the “result tree” is

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equivalent to a style sheet repository. Thus, according to this interpretation when analyzing Claim 24, a determination would need to be made on whether a composite style sheet for an electronic document is present in the "result tree" (alleged to be equivalent to the claimed "composite style sheet repository"), and if a composite style sheet for the electronic document is present in the "result tree", the transcoder would make use of such composite style sheet. Appellants respectfully submit that the cited reference does not make any such type of determination with respect to the "result tree", as this result tree is merely an internal representation of a parsed electronic document (page 2, "How Does XSL Work?"). This result tree is not examined to determine if a composite style sheet for the electronic document is present, and there is no teaching of the claimed feature of "wherein the transcoder determines if a composite style sheet for the electronic document *is present in the composite style sheet repository*" (such repository allegedly being equivalent to be the "result tree"). Thus, as every element of the claimed invention is not identically shown in a single reference, it is urged that Claim 24 has been erroneously rejected.

**B. GROUND OF REJECTION 2 (Claims 9, 31 and 39)**

**B.1. Claims 9, 31 and 39**

With respect to Claim 9, Appellants initially show error in such rejection for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 1.

Further regarding Claim 9, Appellants urge that none of the cited references teach or suggest *a conditional generation of a composite style sheet*. The Examiner states that Boag's teaching of checking capabilities of supporting style processors implies checking the stored style sheets in a style sheet database of the user's device to see if the style sheet of the document is present. Appellants urge that even assuming arguendo that such statement is true (which Appellants do not admit), the resulting action that occurs based upon such alleged conditional checking is that either (1) the document is sent to the device with reference to the selected style sheet, or (2) a completely transformed document is sent. There is no teaching or suggestion of *conditional, real-time generation of the style sheet itself based upon a determination of style*

*sheet's non-existence*. To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. MPEP 2143.03. *See also, In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974). Thus, it is further shown that Claim 9 has been erroneously rejected as all claimed limitations are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

**C. GROUND OF REJECTION 3 (Claims 10, 25 and 40)**

**C.1. Claims 10, 25 and 40**


With respect to Claim 10, Appellants initially show error in such rejection for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claims 1 and 2.

Further regarding Claim 10, Appellants urge that none of the cited references teach or suggest the claimed feature of "wherein the global style sheet includes electronic document navigational information". In rejecting Claim 10, the Examiner states that Feibus discloses this claimed feature as Feibus teaches that technology from FrontPage 98 allows users to organize the Web documents in their site and automatically update the navigation-bar buttons that you can include as part of each documents' style sheet. Appellants urge that Claim 10 is different from updating navigation-bar buttons that can be included as a part of each documents' style sheet. Specifically, Claim 10 is not merely about a style sheet, but rather pertains to a specific style sheet – a global style sheet – that is being used in a particular fashion – other style sheets are being merged into this global style sheet as a part of generating a composite style sheet. None of the cited references teach such a global style sheet (which has other subset style sheets inserted into it as a part of generating a composite style sheet) having electronic document navigational information, as expressly recited by Claim 10 in combination with Claim 2. Thus, as all claimed features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, it is shown that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established with respect to Claim 10 (and similarly for Claims 25 and 40).

**D. GROUND OF REJECTION 4 (Claims 11-13, 26-28 and 41-43)****D.1. Claims 11-13, 26-28 and 41-43**

This rejection is shown to be in error for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 1.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that substantial error exists in the Examiner's final rejection of Claims 1-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103, as shown above, and Appellants thus urge that the Board reverse the rejection of such claims.

  
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**CLAIMS APPENDIX**

The text of the claims involved in the appeal are:

1. A method of generating a composite style sheet used for transforming an electronic document, comprising:

identifying a plurality of subset style sheets based on content of the electronic document;

and

merging the plurality of subset style sheets to generate the composite style sheet.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of subset style sheets includes a global style sheet and other subset style sheets, and wherein merging the plurality of subset style sheets includes inserting the other subset style sheets into the global style sheet to generate the composite style sheet.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein inserting the other subset style sheets of the plurality of subset style sheets into the global style sheet includes converting a root template in each of the other subset style sheets to a child template.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein inserting the other subset style sheets of the plurality of subset style sheets into the global style sheet further includes adjusting match phrases of embedded child templates and references in each of the other subset style sheets.

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5. The method of claim 2, wherein the other subset style sheets are inserted following a root template of the global style sheet.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a plurality of subset style sheets includes parsing the electronic document into a document object model and examining first level child elements of the document object model.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein identifying a plurality of subset style sheets further includes matching values of the first level child elements to characteristic identifiers of subset style sheets in a subset style sheet repository and selecting the plurality of subset style sheets from the subset style sheets in the subset style sheet repository based on whether the first level child element values match characteristic identifiers for the subset style sheets.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the composite style sheet in a composite style sheet repository.
9. A method of generating a composite style sheet for an electronic document, comprising:  
determining if a composite style sheet for the electronic document is present in a composite style sheet repository and, if a composite style sheet for the electronic document is not present in the composite style sheet repository:  
identifying a plurality of subset style sheets based on content of the electronic

document; and

merging the plurality of subset style sheets to generate the composite style sheet.

10. The method of claim 2, wherein the global style sheet includes electronic document navigational information.
11. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if a client device to which the electronic document is to be sent is capable of rendering the electronic document using the composite style sheet, and sending the electronic document to the client device with a reference to the composite style sheet.
12. The method of claim 11, further comprising rendering the electronic document using the composite style sheet and sending the rendered electronic document to the client device, if the client device is not capable of rendering the electronic document using the composite style sheet.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the rendered electronic document is one of an HTML document and a WML document.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a plurality of subset style sheets further includes identifying the plurality of subset style sheets based on characteristics of a client device to which the electronic document is to be sent.

15. The method of claim 2, wherein the global style sheet includes a prefix/postfix glue that generates cards from the merged subset style sheets.

16. An apparatus for generating a composite style sheet for an electronic document, comprising:

a style sheet repository; and

a transcoder coupled to the style sheet repository, wherein the transcoder identifies a plurality of subset style sheets in the style sheet repository that correspond to the electronic document, based on content of the electronic document, and merges the plurality of subset style sheets to generate the composite style sheet.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the plurality of subset style sheets includes a global style sheet and other subset style sheets, and wherein the transcoder merges the plurality of subset style sheets by inserting the other subset style sheets into the global style sheet to generate the composite style sheet.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the transcoder inserts the other subset style sheets of the plurality of subset style sheets into the global style sheet by converting a root template in each of the other subset style sheets to a child template.



19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the transcoder inserts the other subset style sheets of the plurality of subset style sheets into the global style sheet by further adjusting match phrases of embedded child templates and references in each of the other subset style sheets.
20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the transcoder inserts the other subset style sheets following a root template of the global style sheet.
21. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the transcoder identifies the plurality of subset style sheets by parsing the electronic document into a document object model and examining first level child elements of the document object model.
22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the transcoder identifies the plurality of subset style sheets by further matching values of the first level child elements to characteristic identifiers of subset style sheets in the subset style sheet repository and selecting the plurality of subset style sheets from the subset style sheets in the subset style sheet repository based on whether the first level child element values match characteristic identifiers for the subset style sheets.
23. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a composite style sheet repository for storing the composite style sheet.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the transcoder determines if a composite style sheet for the electronic document is present in the composite style sheet repository and, if a composite style sheet for the electronic document is present in the composite style sheet repository, the transcoder makes use of the composite style sheet in the composite style sheet repository.

25. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the global style sheet includes electronic document navigational information.

26. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the transcoder determines if a client device to which the electronic document is to be sent is capable of rendering the electronic document using the composite style sheet, and sends the electronic document to the client device with a reference to the composite style sheet.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the transcoder renders the electronic document using the composite style sheet and sends the rendered electronic document to the client device, if the client device is not capable of rendering the electronic document using the composite style sheet.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the rendered electronic document is one of an HTML document and a WML document.

29. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the transcoder identifies the plurality of subset style sheets by identifying the plurality of subset style sheets based on characteristics of a client device to which the electronic document is to be sent.

30. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the global style sheet includes a prefix/postfix glue that generates cards from the merged subset style sheets.

31. A computer program product embodied in a computer readable medium for generating a composite style sheet for an electronic document, comprising:

first instructions for identifying a plurality of subset style sheets based on content of the electronic document; and

second instructions for merging the plurality of subset style sheets to generate the composite style sheet.

32. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the plurality of subset style sheets includes a global style sheet and other subset style sheets, and wherein the second instructions for merging the plurality of subset style sheets include instructions for inserting the other subset style sheets into the global style sheet to generate the composite style sheet.

33. The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the instructions for inserting the other subset style sheets of the plurality of subset style sheets into the global style sheet include

instructions for converting a root template in each of the other subset style sheets to a child template.

34. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the instructions for inserting the other subset style sheets of the plurality of subset style sheets into the global style sheet further include instructions for adjusting match phrases of embedded child templates and references in each of the other subset style sheets.

35. The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the other subset style sheets are inserted following a root template of the global style sheet.

36. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the first instructions for identifying a plurality of subset style sheets include instructions for parsing the electronic document into a document object model and examining first level child elements of the document object model.

37. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the first instructions for identifying a plurality of subset style sheets further include instructions for matching values of the first level child elements to characteristic identifiers of subset style sheets in a subset style sheet repository and selecting the plurality of subset style sheets from the subset style sheets in the subset style sheet repository based on whether the first level child element values match characteristic identifiers for the subset style sheets.

38. The computer program product of claim 31, further comprising third instructions for storing the composite style sheet in a composite style sheet repository.

39. The computer program product of claim 31, further comprising third instructions for determining if a composite style sheet for the electronic document is present in a composite style sheet repository and, if a composite style sheet for the electronic document is not present in the composite style sheet repository, executing the first and second instructions.

40. The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the global style sheet includes electronic document navigational information.

41. The computer program product of claim 31, further comprising:  
third instructions for determining if a client device to which the electronic document is to be sent is capable of rendering the electronic document using the composite style sheet; and  
fifth instructions for sending the electronic document to the client device with a reference to the composite style sheet.

42. The computer program product of claim 41, further comprising sixth instructions for rendering the electronic document using the composite style sheet and sending the rendered electronic document to the client device, if the client device is not capable of rendering the electronic document using the composite style sheet.

43. The computer program product of claim 42, wherein the rendered electronic document is one of an HTML document and a WML document.

44. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the first instructions for identifying a plurality of subset style sheets further include instructions for identifying the plurality of subset style sheets based on characteristics of a client device to which the electronic document is to be sent.

45. The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the global style sheet includes a prefix/postfix glue that generates cards from the merged subset style sheets.

**EVIDENCE APPENDIX**

There is no evidence to be presented.

**RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX**

There are no related proceedings.